

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:

image-data input means for inputting image data;

specific-image determination means for determining whether or not the image data obtained by said image-data input means represents a specific image having predetermined characteristics;

re-input determination means for determining whether or not a signal urging re-input of the image data obtained from said image-data input means is to be output; and

signal output means for outputting the signal urging re-input of the image data, in accordance with a result of the determination by said re-input determination means.

2. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said specific-image determination means determines whether or not the image data obtained from said image-data input means represents a copy-prohibition image.

3. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said re-input determination means determines whether or not re-input of image data is to be urged, by determining difficulty in determination whether or not the image data represents the specific image.

4. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said re-input determination means determines whether or not re-input of image

data is to be urged by determining difficulty in determination whether or not the image data represents a copy-prohibition image.

5. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said re-input determination means comprises difficulty calculation means for calculating difficulty in determination whether or not the image data represents the specific image, and difficulty determination means for determining whether or not the determination of said specific-image determination means is difficult based on the difficulty calculated by said difficulty calculation means.

6. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said re-input determination means comprises difficulty calculation means for calculating difficulty in determination whether or not the image data represents a copy-prohibition image, and difficulty determination means for determining whether or not the determination whether or not the image data represents a copy-prohibition image is difficult, based on the difficulty calculated by said difficulty calculation means.

7. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said re-input determination means determines whether or not the re-input is to be urged, from data based on a position of an original in an image represented by the input image data.

8. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said difficulty calculation means calculates the difficulty in the determination of

the specific image, from data based on a position of an original in an image represented by the input image data, and wherein said difficulty determination means determines whether or not the determination by said specific-image determination means is difficult, by comparing data of the difficulty calculated by said difficulty calculation means with a predetermined value.

9. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said difficulty calculation means calculates the difficulty in the determination of a copy-prohibition image, from data based on a position of an original in an image represented by the input image data, and wherein said difficulty determination means determines whether or not the determination of a copy-prohibition image is difficult, by comparing data of the difficulty calculated by said difficulty calculation means with a predetermined value.

10. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein data of difficulty calculated from data based on the position of the original in the image represented by the input image data is an angle of the original with respect to a scanning direction of the image represented by the input image data.

11. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein data of difficulty calculated from data based on the position of the original in the image represented by the input image data is a deviation of the original from a predetermined position with respect to a scanning direction of the image represented by the input image data.

12. A method for controlling an image processing apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting image data;

determining whether or not the image data obtained in said image-data input step represents a specific image having predetermined characteristics;

determining whether or not a signal urging re-input of the image data obtained in said image-data input step is to be output; and

outputting the signal urging re-input of the image data, in accordance with a result of the determination in said re-input determination step.

13. A method according to Claim 12, wherein in said specific-image determination step, it is determined whether or not the image data obtained in said image-data input step represents a copy-prohibition image.

14. A method according to Claim 12, wherein in said re-input determination step, it is determined whether or not re-input of image data is to be urged, by determining difficulty in determination whether or not the image data represents the specific image.

15. A method according to Claim 13, wherein in said re-input determination step, it is determined whether or not re-input of image data is to be urged by determining difficulty in determination whether or not the image data represents a copy-prohibition image.

16. A method according to Claim 12, wherein said re-input determination step comprises a difficulty calculation step of calculating difficulty in determination whether or not the image data represents the specific image, and a difficulty determination step of determining whether or not the determination of the specific image is difficult, based on the difficulty calculated in said difficulty calculation step.

17. A method according to Claim 13, wherein said re-input determination step comprises a difficulty calculation step of calculating difficulty in determination whether or not the image data represents a copy-prohibition image, and a difficulty determination step of determining whether or not the determination whether or not the image data represents a copy-prohibition image is difficult, based on the difficulty calculated in said difficulty calculation means.

18. A method according to Claim 13, wherein in said re-input determination step, it is determined whether or not the re-input is to be urged, from data based on a position of an original in an image represented by the input image data.

19. A method according to Claim 16, wherein in said difficulty calculation step, the difficulty in the determination of the specific image is calculated from data based on a position of an original in an image represented by the input image data, and wherein in said difficulty determination step, it is determined whether or not the determination of the specific image is difficult, by comparing data of the difficulty calculated in

09769363 012601
T092T0 E969260

said difficulty calculation step with a predetermined value.

20. A method according to Claim 17, wherein in said difficulty calculation step, the difficulty in the determination of a copy-prohibition image is calculated from data based on a position of an original in an image represented by the input image data, and wherein in said difficulty determination step, it is determined whether or not the determination of a copy-prohibition image is difficult, by comparing data of the difficulty calculated in said difficulty calculation step with a predetermined value.

21. A method according to Claim 18, wherein data of difficulty calculated from data based on the position of the original is an angle of the original with respect to a scanning direction of the image represented by the input image data.

22. A method according to Claim 18, wherein data of difficulty calculated from data based on the position of the original is a deviation of the original from a predetermined position with respect to a scanning direction of the image represented by the input image data.

23. A storage medium, capable of being read by a computer, storing a program to cause an image processing apparatus to execute the following steps, said program comprising the steps of:

inputting image data;

determining whether or not the image data obtained in said image-data input step is a specific image having predetermined

09769363 012601

characteristics;

determining whether or not a signal urging re-input of the image data obtained in said image-data input step is to be output; and

outputting the signal urging re-input of the image data, in accordance with a result of the determination in said re-input determination step.

09769363 012604
FOUO E969/60